

spirit. If they meant nothing, then it was idiocy for us to have gone into them. If they meant anything, Wilson and Bryan are not to be excused for failure to try to make them good by whatever action was necessary; and political neutrality when they were violated was a crime against the world and a thoroughly base and dishonorable thing on our part. As for the *Lusitania* matter, failure to act within twenty-four hours following her sinking was an offense that is literally inexcusable and inexplicable. Of course, our people are now all confused and weakened and incapable of giving any coherent support to our own rights or the rights of others in the teeth of Germany's ruthless and cruel efficiency. This is directly due to the action of Wilson—the worst President we have had since Buchanan, an even worse President than Taft, a considerably worse President than Andrew Johnson—and he has been able to do this because papers like the *Times* have shown such ambidextrous morality in cordially supporting him while at the same time taking positions that were justifiable only on the theory that he had acted outrageously and should be denounced.

"This people is no worse than it was in the days of Washington and Lincoln. We were still in the gristle; and, thanks largely to the immense immigration, we have continued to be in the gristle. When we had them as Presidents or as national leaders, the people would follow them. But if, after firing on Sumter, Lincoln

had made a  
speech.in which he said that the North was  
'too proud to  
fight,' and if he had then spent sixty days in  
writing polished epistles to Jefferson Davis, and if  
Seward had re-  
signed because these utterly futile epistles  
were not even  
more futile, why, by July the whole heart would  
have been  
out of the Union party and most people in the  
North would  
have been following Horace Greeley in  
saying that the  
erring sisters should be permitted to depart in  
peace! Wil-  
son has not had to face anything like as  
great a crisis;  
but he has faced it exactly as Buchanan  
faced his crisis,